

Armenia's long-serving Ambassador to the United States and a man with whom I have had the pleasure of working for much of the past decade, since his appointment as Ambassador to the United States in March 2005.

The last nine years have been challenging ones for Armenia. Turkey and Azerbaijan have continued their campaign to isolate Armenia diplomatically and economically, even as the country has worked to move forward on the path to full democracy, while also seeking to develop its economy and bring needed services and opportunity to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. I have been proud to work with Ambassador Markarian and his team at the embassy on these and many other challenging issues, including recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the United States Congress, and on behalf of the tens of thousands of Armenian-Americans in my district, I wish him all the best as he takes up his position in Brussels as Armenia's Ambassador to the European Union.

Prior to taking up his post in Washington, Ambassador Markarian served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia since June 2000. In that capacity, his responsibilities included the Ministry's Departments of Politico-Military Affairs; International Organizations; CIS Countries; and Asia-Pacific and Africa. He was also the Armenian coordinator for the U.S.-Armenia Strategic Dialogue as well as the NATO-Armenia Political-Military Dialogue. In 2002–2004, Ambassador Markarian was also Special Representative of the President of Armenia for Nagorno Karabakh negotiations. In 1999–2000, he served as Advisor to Foreign Minister.

The United States has had a great friend in Ambassador Markarian and the U.S.-Armenian relationship has been greatly strengthened by his work here.

HONORING THE FRENCH LAUNDRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The French Laundry, a renowned fine-dining restaurant in Yountville, California, as it celebrates twenty years of service on July 6th. Since its opening, The French Laundry has consistently served diners only the most delectable, high-quality and inventive dishes. This exemplary establishment certainly deserves to be recognized and honored today.

Under the leadership of Chef Thomas Keller, The French Laundry has earned worldwide acclaim. By September 1994, Michael Bauer of the San Francisco Chronicle awarded The French Laundry a four-star rating. Since then, The French Laundry has continued to receive awards and recognition at an impressive pace. The French Laundry has earned a 3-star rating from the Michelin Guide every year since 2007. Wine Spectator has bestowed its Grand Award upon The French Laundry for seven consecutive years. The restaurant has been named as one of the "Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants" by the San Francisco Chronicle in addition to being ranked #1

in "The World's 50 Best Restaurants" by Restaurant Magazine. And this just to name a few of The French Laundry's impressive accolades.

Mr. Speaker, The French Laundry has contributed to, if not defined, Napa Valley's tradition of, and reputation for, fine dining. On behalf of a grateful district, I thank Chef Thomas Keller and his entire staff for their unwavering dedication, passion and creativity.

HONORING MARY KASTEN

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Kasten who is receiving the Southeast Missourian "Spirit of American Award" in recognition of her outstanding service to the community of Cape Girardeau and the state of Missouri.

Mary's service expands from God, family, country and her fellow man. She volunteered much of her time as a Sunday school teacher and choir member in the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Mary also served as a member of the Cape Girardeau School Board and held various offices on the board for 20 years. Mary continued to be dedicated to education by serving on the Board of Regents at Southeast Missouri State University, her alma mater. Mary also served in the Missouri General Assembly for nearly 20 years where she represented her family, friends and neighbors with distinction.

One of Mary's greatest works for others was the beginning of the Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council. Her vision of this program began in Southern Missouri and is now being replicated in the rest of the State and nationwide.

If anyone deserves the "Spirit of American Award" it would be Mary Kasten. I applaud her for her achievements and service.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID K. PAGE AND HIS PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF BUILDING A STRONGER GREATER DETROIT COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sadness to mark the passing of an incredible leader in the Greater Detroit community and a dear friend to my family, David Page.

From early in life, David charted a course of excellence—graduating with a Bachelor's Degree from Dartmouth College and a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. In addition to these degrees, he studied at the London School of Economics as a Fulbright Scholar.

At Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, where David worked for more than 50 years, he brought his considerable talents to bear in the field of law. While there, David de-

veloped a reputation of tireless service to his clients and a commitment to providing excellent counsel.

While David's legal career came into focus, he became an active leader in the Greater Detroit community, where he was a force in the effort to revitalize the region. Throughout his decades of loyal service to the community, David served on the boards of many community organizations that have improved the quality of life for the residents of Southeast Michigan. The boards he served on included: the Detroit Zoological Society, City Year Detroit and the Detroit Chamber Music Society. David was a founding trustee of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and was directly engaged in the efforts that led to the creation of endowments that will power the work of future generations of community organizations in the Greater Detroit region. As a committed leader of the Jewish community, David served as president of the Jewish Fund, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and Temple Beth El. David also served as chair of the board of the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation and as chairman of the hospital's board for almost a decade of his more than 40 years of tenure with that organization.

While David provided invaluable leadership to many organizations in Southeast Michigan and helped empower them to magnify their impact, one of his most satisfying endeavors was his work with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, where he served as vice chair of the board. With a prominent view of the Detroit River from his office, David leveraged his position as vice chair and trustee of the Kresge Foundation to build the public-private partnership that would become the Conservancy, which is transforming the Detroit riverfront. With a focus on a 5.5 mile stretch of riverfront between Belle Isle and the Ambassador Bridge, the Conservancy has realized the revitalization of Gabriel Richard Park, Rivard Plaza, and the Dequindre Cut greenway linking Eastern Market to the riverfront and one of Michigan's crown jewels, William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor—the first urban state park in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, over the years my wife, Colleen, and I have been so fortunate to work with David and share many warm memories with him and his family. All of us who have had the fortune to know him will greatly miss his leadership and indomitable spirit. David's passion for helping others was rivaled only by his passion for his family, and my thoughts are with his loving wife, Andrea, their children: Jason, Mark and Sarah, and their grandchildren during this difficult time. However, even amidst the sadness, there is so much from which David's family may take solace—a legacy of dedicated service toward building a brighter future for the Greater Detroit region, which continues to impact the lives of so many across our community. I am confident his legacy will be a beacon that continues to inspire not only those of us who currently seek to strengthen and revitalize the Southeast Michigan region, but to future generations of leaders and community activists as well.